

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/TUR:RSDILLON:MJB
APPROVED BY NEA - RODGER P. DAVIES
NEA/RA - T. GRANT (DRAFT)
S/NM - MR. MUNN (DRAFT)
AID:DMACDONALD
P - MR. SISCO
S/S :SFRY

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O R 162244Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 053298

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM BAN

REF: A. STATE 50970 B. GENEVA 1666

1. BY NOW YOU WILL HAVE SEEN REFTEL A REPORTING SISCO-ESENBEL CONVERSATION MARCH 13 IN WHICH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FULLY SUPPORTED EXCELLENT EXPOSITIONS OF U.S. POSITION YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING IN ANKARA. DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH CALLED IN ESENBEL THIS MORNING (MARCH 15) AND REITERATED SERIOUS HIGH LEVEL CONCERN WITHIN THE USG AT A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN TURKISH POLICY ON POPPIES. ESENBEL REITERATED PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT NO DECISION YET MADE, NO DECISION WITHOUT MORE DISCUSSION, AND NO SPRING PLANTING (OTHER THAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PLANTING FOR SEED GERMINATION). FULL CONVERSATION BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. NEW ELEMENT ON OUR SIDE IN BOTH CONVERSATIONS WAS:

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A. ROBERT MCNAMARA OFFER TO BE HELPFUL;

B. OUR OWN INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO SPEED UP U.S.-FINANCED PROJECTS IN THE POPPY AREAS, AND TO SEE WHETHER ADDITIONAL PROJECTS COULD BE FOUND.

ESENBEL DISPLAYED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THESE SUGGESTIONS,

AND IN FACT AT ONE POINT SAID "IT NOT A QUESTION OF MORE AID." HE DID, HOWEVER, ASSURE DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT HE WOULD FAITHFULLY REPORT OUR PROPOSALS TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. DESPITE ABOVE, WE THINK QUESTION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR EX-POPPY REGION SHOULD BE PLAYED OUT A LITTLE FURTHER. THEREFORE, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO TELL FONMIN GUNES THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO OFFER TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SPEED UP U.S.-FINANCED TURKISH PROJECTS ALREADY GOING IN THE POPPY AREAS AND TO SEE WHETHER ADDITIONAL PROJECTS CAN BE FOUND. YOU ARE ALSO INSTRUCTED TO TELL FONMIN THAT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO HAS TALKED TO IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA, WHO INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO SEND A TEAM TO TURKEY FOR THIS PURPOSE IF REQUESTED BY TURKS.

4. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AT YOUR DISCRETION. IF IN YOUR JUDGMENT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORMER POPPY AREAS NOT LIKELY TO BE USEFUL, YOU MAY DISREGARD THEM. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING YOU MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON SUGGESTION FROM GENEVA CONTAINED REFTEL B. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT IT PROBABLY PREMATURE TO TRY TO INVOLVE MCNAMARA MORE WITHOUT SOME INDICATION OF TURKISH INTEREST.

6. FYI: REF PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE: EVERYONE HERE UNDERSTANDS THAT PROBLEMS OF SLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF TURKISH PROJECTS IN THE EX-POPPY AREAS ARE SOLELY DUE TO GOT MANAGEMENT. WE HAVE MADE THIS POINT TO ESENBEL, BUT
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HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO GET INTO DETAILED ARGUMENT ON THE ISSUE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE GOT OFFICIALS HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT MATTER. END FYI. KISSINGER

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